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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/613,324	07/03/2003	Charles Rheme	P/1336-176	4298
2352	7590	05/27/2004	EXAMINER	
OSTROLENK FABER GERB & SOFFEN 1180 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK, NY 100368403			BUCZINSKI, STEPHEN C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3662	

DATE MAILED: 05/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/613,324	RHEME ET AL.	
	Examiner Stephen C. Buczinski	Art Unit 3662	
-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --			
<b>Period for Reply</b>			
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.</li> <li>- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).</li> </ul>			
<b>Status</b>			
<p>1)<input type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.      2a)<input type="checkbox"/> This action is <b>FINAL</b>.      2b)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.      3)<input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i>, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.</p>			
<b>Disposition of Claims</b>			
<p>4)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-17</u> is/are pending in the application.      4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.      5)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>3,13,15 and 17</u> is/are allowed.      6)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1,2,5-10,12,14 and 16</u> is/are rejected.      7)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>4 and 11</u> is/are objected to.      8)<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.</p>			
<b>Application Papers</b>			
<p>9)<input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.      10)<input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)<input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b)<input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner.          Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).          Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).      11)<input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.</p>			
<b>Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119</b>			
<p>12)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).      a)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All    b)<input type="checkbox"/> Some * c)<input type="checkbox"/> None of:          1.<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.          2.<input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.          3.<input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).</p>			
<p>* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.</p>			
<b>Attachment(s)</b>			
1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)		4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .	
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)		5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)	
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .		6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .	

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1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Doemens et al.

Doemens et al teaches the use of plural sources and/or plural detectors to measure the range to an object where any one source and any one detector define a different plane in the object space. This constitutes the same structure being claimed, where the array is a position sensitive detector collectively.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 10, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doemens et al.

These claims require simply plural arrangements like that of Doemens et al. A mere duplication of an existing invention would have been obvious as claimed.

5. Claims 7 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doemens et al as applied to claims above, and further in view of Ogino et al.

Ogino et al shows the use of prism surfaces 4a and 4b to route transmitted and received signals from the source to the detector via a reflection from a target object. It would have been obvious to have used similar optics to route the beams in Doemens et al within the breadth of these claims, since both references are related to the same basic ranging techniques.

6. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ogino et al as above.

7. Claims 1, 2, 3, and 6 are replete with the misuse of "the" for --a-- or --an-- in each instance where a term is being introduced for the first time, such that it is interpreted as "said". For instance, in claim 1, line 2, "the axis" should be --an axis--, etc.

8. Rudd has been cited to show related intensity modulation with respect to an array of detectors. Misawa et al has been cited to show other varied plane ranging schemes. Horiuchi et al shows related off axis detection.

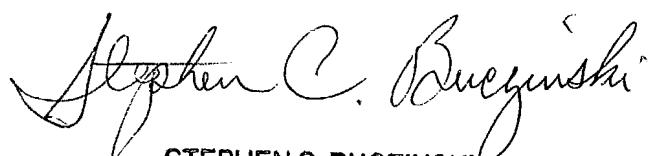
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen C. Buczinski whose telephone number is 703 305-1835. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 5:30am-2:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Tarcza can be reached on 703 306-4171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Stephen C. Buczinski  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3662



STEPHEN C. BUCZINSKI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER